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RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF RHODE ISLAND,

In relation to slavery.

MARCH 1, 1849.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JANUARY SESSION, A. D., 1849.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be requested, to use their best efforts to procure the passage of laws for the establishment of governments for the territories acquired by the late treaty of peace with Mexico, and that by such laws, involuntary servitude, except for crime, be excluded from such territory.

Resolved, That the territory lying between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, and that portion of New Mexico lying east of the Rio Grande, are the common property of the United States, and that our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use their best efforts to preserve the same as such common property, and protect it from the claims of the State of Texas, and prohibit the extension over it of the laws of Texas, or the institution of domestic slavery.

Resolved, That the existence of prisons for the confinement and marts for the sale of slaves, at the seat of the national government, is viewed by this legislature with deep regret and mortification; that such prisons and marts ought forthwith to be abolished.

Resolved, That our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use their strenuous efforts to procure the passage of a law that shall protect slaves from unjust imprisonment, and shall effectually put an end to the slave trade in the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolutions to our senators and representatives in Congress.

True copy—Witness:

HENRY BOWEN.

Secretary.